February 23, 2015

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, RM 2700
Connecticut General Assembly
Hartford, CT 06106

Chairwomen Bye, Walker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Faquir Jain. I am currently a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and in the newly formed Biomedical Engineering Department at UConn. I have been a member of the faculty since 1978. I also serve as the co-coordinator of Connecticut Microelectronics and Optoelectronics Consortium (CMOC), which is comprised of UConn, Yale, Trinity, U. Bridgeport U., New Haven, Southern CT State University and Western Connecticut State University.

The STEM-focused Next Generation support is already significantly enhancing research involving students and industry engineers and scientists. It's synergy with Technology Incubation Park (at Storrs) and Bioscience CT initiative will prime the engine for creating new small businesses and accelerate job creation in state for next 20 years and more.

The evidence of STEM-related industries creating more jobs per dollar is well known, and so is the fact that towns where technologies parks are located have higher per capita income (per article in 2013 Hartford Courant).

A stronger UConn with state-of-the-art research facilities will be more conducive to enhanced collaboration with industry as well as nationally recognized private schools such as Yale, Harvard and MIT. This will promote CT students remaining in the state and opening new industries and strengthening existing ones.

The UConn School of Engineering with increased student enrollment and faculty size will achieve a critical mass needed to excel nationally. With the exception of few elite schools, most of the rank engineering institutions have faculty size in each department ranging from 70-100. A critical mass of faculty and student is needed to accelerate excellence and better serve the state enterprises. A budget cut at this stage will undermine Next Generation goals.

I will be glad to answer any questions.

Faquir Jain, PhD
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